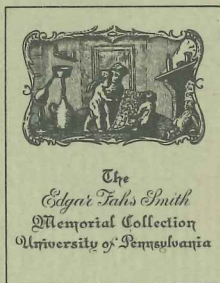
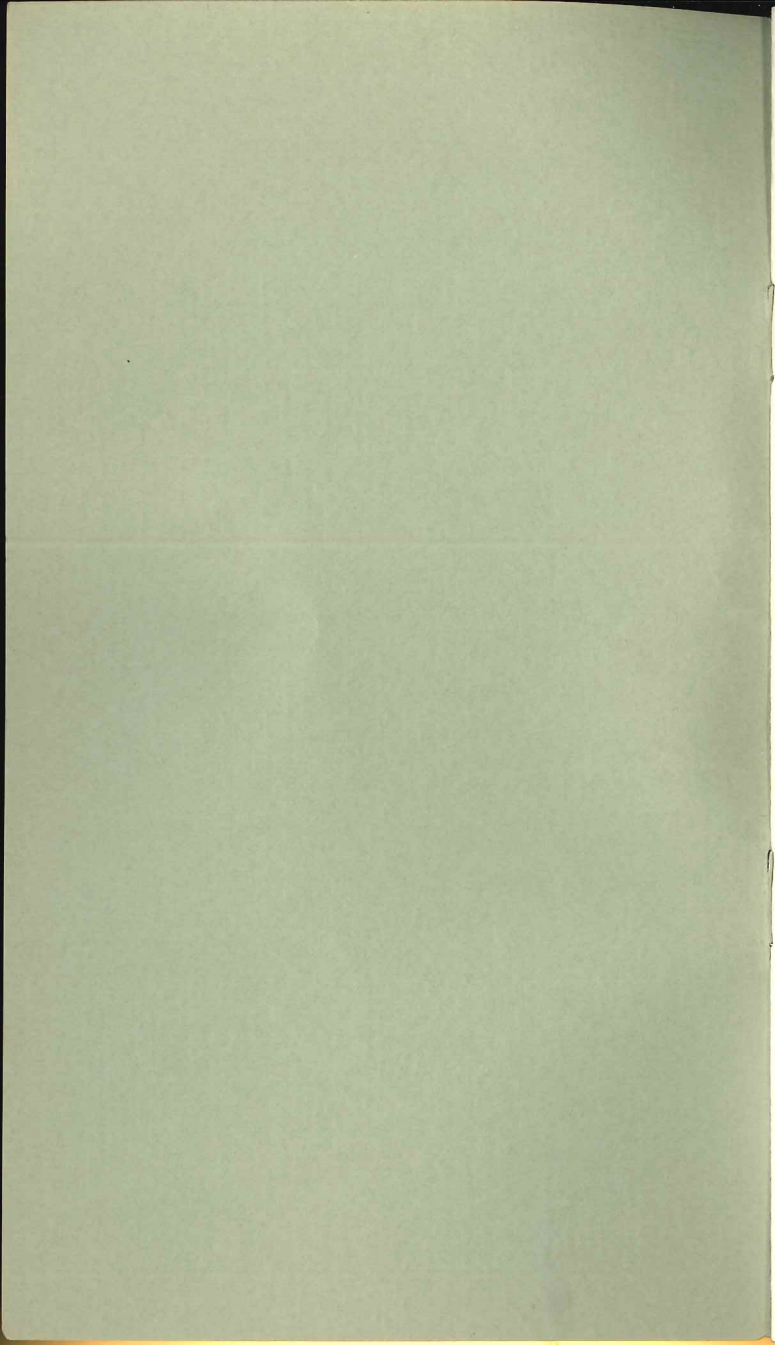


BOOKS, BOOKPLATES, AND A UNIVERSITY





A Word to the Omniscient

In 1749 a London barrister who was so learned that people called him "Omniscient Jackson" gave some books to a new academy in Philadelphia.

Omniscient, indeed! His gift was a forerunner of one of America's great book collections, the University of Pennsylvania Library — now nearing 2,000,000 volumes.

For the record, the University Library dates its origin from 1750, when Benjamin Franklin headed a committee authorized by the trustees to invest a hundred pounds sterling in "Latin and Greek Authors, Maps, Drafts and Instruments for the Use of the Academy."

Today both the University and its library are experiencing unprecedented growth. The book-buying budget has doubled in the past decade; so has the circulation of books.

Yet the University Library is growing no faster than it must. Like libraries everywhere, it is hard pressed to keep up with the rising tempo of

publication and rising book costs.

The solution? Omniscient Jackson had the right idea. Over the past two centuries, hundreds of other friends, alumni, and faculty members of Pennsylvania have had the same idea:

Gifts and bequests to the University Library.

Books acquired through such benefactions are permanently identified by bookplates, such as those reproduced in miniature on the cover of this pamphlet. Each carries a message of thoughtfulness to generations of students.

Gifts of Knowledge

Books are the ageless teacher—both the voice and memory of civilization. A great library is the most enduring ingredient of a great university.

Pennsylvania's library is one of the great ones. In its 215 years it has accumulated treasures which no younger library can match, a veritable gold mine for scholarly research and learning at all levels.

It owes much of its greatness to gifts.

William Smith, the first Provost, was an early benefactor. In 1784, Louis XVI of France gave 100 volumes. In 1867 the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture gave a fund that still yields a yearly income.

A history professor's gift enabled the library to build a collection that is proving invaluable to a current study of Argentine nationalism.

A banker's widow made an unrestricted gift in her husband's memory; part of it was used to buy the famous Rennert Collection of Spanish Literature.

A real estate man willed to the University Library his 4,000-volume collection of art books; his daughter set up an endowment to increase it.

A former president of Philadelphia's Central High School established collections in memory of his parents, his two sisters, and himself.

Such gifts as these have made the University Library the most precious possession of a distinguished university.

Lasting Memorials

Great or modest, a gift or bequest to the University Library for books is an investment in immortality.

Even a spendable gift, used at once, is a lasting one. Books often outlast buildings. All the more enduring is an endowment fund; invested to produce continuing income, it goes on buying books forever.

Notable among the University Library's endowments are the Tobias Wagner Fund (1874), the Reverend C. P. Krauth Fund (1883), the William Pepper Fund (1888), the Francis Macauley Fund (1890), the J. B. Lippincott Fund (1891), the Ellis D. Williams Fund (1923), the Henry Charles Lea Fund (1925), the Horace Howard Furness Fund (1930), the Edgar Fahs Smith Fund (1931), the Herman V. Ames Fund (1951), and the John L. Haney Fund (1959).

The income from the University Library's endowed funds is less than \$70,000 a year; the library could make good use of \$500,000!

For the Love of Learning

With completion of the Dietrich Graduate Library Center, companion building to the award-winning Charles Patterson Van Pelt Library, the basic collections of the University of Pennsylvania Library will have a \$10,000,000 home.

Various other projects in the University's current \$93,000,000 Development Program will meet the immediate physical needs of the Biddle Law Library, the Towne Engineering Library, the Biology Library, and the Physics and Astronomy Libraries.

For the first time in years the University Library is equipped to receive all the books it needs without undue concern about where to put them.

The part that books play in Pennsylvania education today is attested by the fact that the Van Pelt Library is open and well-used 107½ hours a week.

Despite yearly increases in the University's outlay for library books, last year's budget ran out in nine months. Only the income from endow-

ments kept the University Library growing—as it must always grow—for the rest of the year.

The rate of its continued growth will be reflected in the number of new bookplates whose inscriptions are read by Pennsylvania scholars and students over the years ahead.

Every bookplate marks a gain in Pennsylvania's stature among the great universities, a friendly link between generations of readers, and a lasting testimony to the donor's love of learning.

Footnotes

Benefactions to the University Library of \$1,000 or more lend themselves to:

Creation of a permanent endowment fund, yielding income each year for the purchase of more books, or . . .

Expenditure of the principal on some valuable collection, rare book, or manuscript that the Library has an opportunity to buy.

Gifts and bequests of less than \$1,000 will ordinarily be expended outright on books needed at once.

A donor may let the Library buy whatever works it wishes with his gift; or he may designate it for books in some broad field of his choice, such as history, philosophy, economics, law, engineering, literature, or one of the sciences.

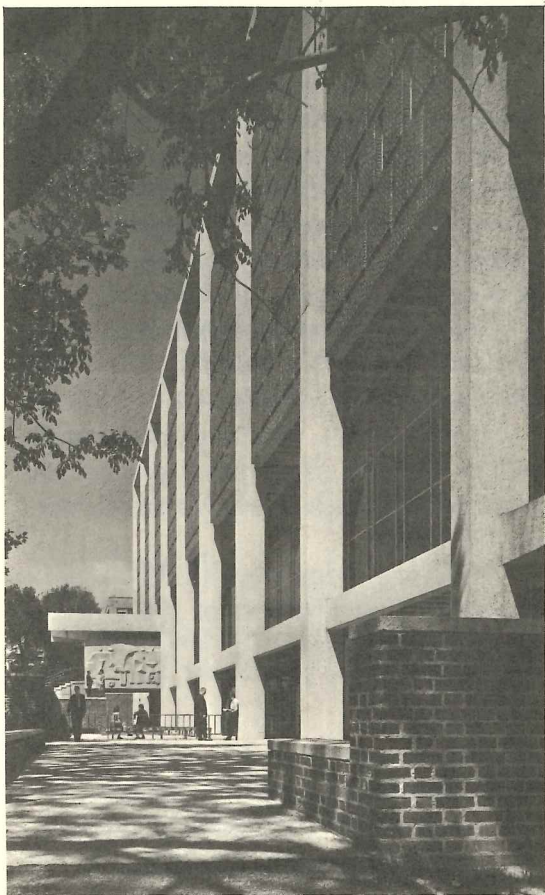
Too narrow a restriction, however, may limit the usefulness of a gift in the face of changing needs.

Every book, whatever the conditions of the gift, becomes a permanent memorial through a bookplate honoring the donor.

Gifts and bequests should be made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
201 SOUTH 34TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19104

APRIL 1965



*The Charles Patterson Van Pelt Library
University of Pennsylvania*

